



Page 7



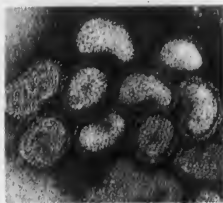
Page 6



Samantha Daniel/Bullet

Mary Washington's men's soccer team opened its season at home Tuesday afternoon. This was the first game since the death of midfielder Preston Hirtlen in late August.

For more information on Hirtlen, see "Memorial Service Planned for Hirtlen," page 2.



Courtesy of www.sikunews.com

Colleges on Alert for Cases of H1N1

By **HEATHER BRADY**
Staff Writer

Mary Washington has confirmed one case of swine flu in a student, and three other students are being treated as possible cases by the University's Health Center as of Aug. 28, according to a campus-wide email from the Office of Public Safety and Community sent the same day.

This comes at a time when many other college campuses are experiencing similar occurrences. According to an article released in June on inside-higher.com, many universities in the U.S. have had cases of the swine flu appear over the summer, ranging in numbers from one to five students per university.

The number of students that contracted the virus over the summer is unusual, according to the article, since strains of the flu virus aren't typically widespread in the summer.

More than a dozen students at Washington and Lee University in Lexington contracted the virus last spring, and the University of Richmond has confirmed four cases of students contracting the flu so far this semester.

Another article on the website details recommendations that the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services have made to in-

SWINE, page 9

Diverse Freshman Class

Racial and ethnic minorities represent a record 21 percent of admitted students.

By **HEATHER BRADY**
Staff Writer

Over 850 students from the most diverse freshman class in Mary Washington history moved into their dorms Wednesday morning, marking the beginning of their college experience.

In what felt like 100-degree weather, sweat-soaked incoming freshmen and their parents carried belongings from their cars to their rooms, met roommates, and tried to get situated in the midst of chaos.

Cars were parked in lines along any available grassy areas near freshman residence halls, and stations with water coolers were set up in several places along campus walk and near dorm building entrances to provide temporary relief from the heat.

The freshmen moving in were joining a significantly more diverse class of students than previous Mary Washington students. The percentage of racial and ethnic diversity jumped

from 16 percent to 21 percent between 2008 and 2009, according to statistics provided by the UMW Office of Admissions.

While both the gender and commuting student ratios remained fairly steady, the number of freshmen that are Virginia residents increased dramatically from 74 percent to 81 percent.

Matt Tierno, a freshman from Fairfield, Conn., drove six hours on Tuesday and stayed in Fredericksburg overnight to be ready to move in Wednesday morning. Tierno chose

Mary Washington because it has "a great setting, a good location, and good people."

Freshman Hannah Laughlin got up at 5:30 a.m. to drive to UMW from Chesapeake.

"I'm nervous about meeting new people and making new friends," Laughlin said. "And I'm nervous about classes. I'm not so good at math and science."

Adam Hunter and Ross Kinsman, both freshmen from

Arlington, have known each other since preschool. They had no doubts about where they wanted to go to col-

lege.

"This place was the coolest by far—the most welcoming and the most well-mannered," Hunter said.

"When I got the letter for here, [the rest of the colleges I got into] didn't matter," Kinsman said.

Both Hunter and Kinsman want to try many different activities to figure out what they want to be involved in, but both also have their eyes set on the men's Ultimate Frisbee team.

Freshman Justin Thompson from Gloucester, said that he was not nervous yet.

"I'm excited about classes and everything," Thompson said. "I want a good GPA."

"Same here," said Charlie Lex, Thompson's roommate from Vienna.

"I want good grades."

Lex was more concerned than Thompson about moving in, however.

"I'm worried about forgetting something monumental, like socks," Lex said.

“ I’m worried about forgetting something monumental, like socks.

—Charlie Lex

New SGA President Has Ambitious Plan

By **ERIC STEIGLEDER**
Staff Writer

Senior Samantha Miller was elected as the Student Government Association President last spring. In a student election season fraught with controversy, the presidency was one of the few races lacking major conflict. And while any political position comes with its complexities, Miller's reasons for running and serving were simple.

"The school is on the path to becoming great," she said. "And I want to help in that capacity."

Miller's drive to be active in the UMW community has manifested itself in multiple endeavors, with her tenure as president being only the most recent example.

She was a member of Hall Council during her freshman and sophomore

years. In Student Government, she has served on the Legislative Action Committee and has been a Student Senator since her first year at UMW. Class Council promotions, Hillel, and Model United Nations make up her resume.

"I've always been very involved on campus," Miller said. "I think it's important to feel involved in the community."

As president, Miller hopes to function first and foremost as a representative of the student body.

"It needs to be directed the way the students want, not just the administration," she said. "There are 4,000 students and we only hear 100 or so voices."

There is a campus town hall meeting planned for Wednesday Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. in Lee Hall. According to Miller, this meeting will give students a chance to directly question and engage their student leaders, including the SGA President and the Executive Cabinet, as well as members of the University administration.

Miller also mentioned the creation of an SGA Leader's Fund, to help struggling students with educational costs. She stressed the difficulties in creating such a fund, but emphasized her support and pledged to work towards such a goal.

In a campus community with a nearly 70 percent female majority, the three most recent SGA Presidents have been men. Miller views this, like many aspects of her presidency, as a

By **SARAH SMITH**
Staff Writer

"We are rationing care by saying people who don't have money can't have coverage," said one woman at Tuesday's Town Hall health care meeting in Dodd Auditorium.

As one of the final comments of the night, it was met by passionate audience responses from both sides and was one of comparatively few pro-health care supporters present.

Virginia Representative Republican Rob Wittman's forum drew a sizable crowd to campus to discuss H.R. 3200, the Congressional health care bill that is currently being debated in town hall meetings across the nation.

People from Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania and the surrounding area came to make themselves heard and to ask questions about the bill's particulars.

Wittman opened the forum with his own stance on the bill and was met with a standing ovation when he announced that he cannot support it with its current provisions.

"It [health care] is a significant problem we need to address. I want to make sure all of us understand and are as comfortable as we can be. I don't want to rush it," Wittman said.

Prior to the meeting, protesters stood outside of Dodd in opposition to spending public money on abortions, holding banners such as one that stated, "President Obama: Social justice and human rights begin in the womb...protect our children."

"Our goal is that not one penny of

public money is spent on abortions...Health care should be healing, comfort and compassion, not violence and brutality," Patrick Mahoney, Director of the Christian Defense Coalition in Washington, D.C. and member of Fredericksburg's Grace Church said. Following his opening statements, Wittman took questions and commentary from the audience and addressed participants' statements for more than an hour and a half.

While many town hall meetings across the country have devolved into disorder, the Dodd Hall forum stayed civil. Wittman had to ask audience members to be respectful to one another a couple of times, but the crowd was generally courteous.

Several people expressed their concern about the availability of coverage that will be available to the elderly under the proposed bill.

Wittman echoed their concerns, questioning who would decide how the program's resources would be distributed.



Courtesy of the Office of Congressman Rob Wittman

U.S. Congressman Rob Wittman (R—Montross)

One woman brought up the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003. She cited similar language between this bill and the current health care proposal with regards to end-of-life counseling, and pointed out that it had passed into law six years ago.

The 2003 Medicare bill states, "Services would include...counseling the individual with respect to end-of-life issues and care options, and advising the individual regarding advanced care

TOWN HALL, page 9



Courtesy of Sam Miller

► See **MILLER, page 9**

Upcoming Events:

Band: Pie Boys Flat

Friday, Sept. 4, Lee Hall Underground, 9 p.m. Preview their music on My-Space.

C.O.A.R. Interest Meeting

Thurs., Sept. 3, Great Hall, 6 p.m. Interested in volunteering? Hear leaders speak about various programs through C.O.A.R. and what you can do to get involved.

Cheap Seats Movie: "The Proposal"

Dodd Auditorium, Fri., Sept. 4, 7 p.m.; Sat. Sept. 5, 10 p.m. Tickets are \$1 at the door.

DJ Party

Thurs., Sept. 3, Lee Hall, Underground, 9 p.m. Co-Sponsored by WMWC.

Events courtesy of OSACS.

Want to get involved? Come to a staff meeting on Sunday at 8 p.m. in the Bulletin office, located in the lower-level of Seacobeck, or contact newsxcrew@gmail.com

Police Beat



Police Beat Fans: Check back next Thursday for your weekly dose of collegiate crime.

Debates Arise in Parking Shuffle

By SARA MARRON
Staff Writer

This year, three levels of the University Parking Deck located off of Alvey Drive are no longer available for use by residential students, according to the Public Safety and Community Support Services website.

Aggressive construction across campus has limited the availability of parking this year. Every day of the week, the parking deck will also be closed at 1 a.m. and will reopen again at 5 a.m. in an effort to promote safety, according to the website. Commuter students will receive priority in the parking deck during weekday hours on the first three levels.

For commuters, the reallocation of parking spaces allows depreciated stress, according to freshman Eddie Roget, one of 68 freshmen that commute this year.

"On top of my commute, not having a place to park would make it terribly inconvenient trying to get to class," Roget said.

Upperclassmen commuters who have dealt with limited parking in the past, like junior Megan Ortiz, remark that the time spent searching for spaces severely detracted from their study time.

"It was impossible to find a place last year," Ortiz said, "I would have to leave way before class even started. It took away from my study time."

Senior Adam Shlossman expressed his desire for more parking spaces.

"We really don't have enough parking at all," Shlossman said.

As a result of the sexual assault that took place during the Fall 2008 semester in the parking deck, safety is also a concern for students like sophomore Chelsie Adams regarding the displacement of parking.

"I had to park like a mile away from my dorm one night on Sunken Road," Adams said. "I think it's a little more unsafe to have us parking there."

According to Adams, the spaces available to residential students as a result of the reassigned spaces for the commuters are located along roads that are secluded and not well lit.

"If I was down there by myself, I wouldn't feel safe," Adams said.

Other students have voiced their concern verbally, as well as through a Facebook special interest group entitled "Petition to Keep the UMW Parking Lot Residential."

"It's scary down there!" junior Stephen Clendenin said. "It's not well lit, and the gate is always open."

A residential student, Clendenin said that although it is convenient for the commuters, it's hard on residential students who are forced to leave their cars in a space for extended periods at a time.

"We are on campus more often; we live here," Clendenin said. "Our cars actually have to stay here."

According to David Sing, supervisor for parking and emergency communication, the University Police make their services available should a student feel unsafe walking back to their residency alone.

"All the students are told that they have access to an escort service," Sing said. "If at night a student feels unsafe, they simply have to call an officer and [the officer] will come to pick them up."

Operating nightly from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m., the student escort services can be reached by calling (540)-654-4444. Students are encouraged by the University Police to utilize these services.

Memorial Service Planned for Hirten

By JESS MASULLI
Staff Writer

A memorial service to honor Preston Hirten will be held at the University of Mary Washington soccer field on Friday, Sept. 4 at 6:45 p.m.

The 20-year-old UMW junior died during soccer practice on August 18. In a statement from President Judy Hample, Hirten's parents said the preliminary autopsy results show he died of an enlarged heart.

Sudden cardiac death is rare in young athletes, but still accounts for about 55 percent of athlete deaths, according to a news release from the American Heart Association.

Hirten collapsed on the Battle-ground Athletic Complex soccer field.

"He lived his life on the soccer fields," a Westport obituary said.

Hirten was named to the All-State and All-Conference teams at Staples High School in his hometown of Westport, Conn.

After transferring from Hobart College in New York to UMW, he started as a center mid-fielder for UMW in his first season, according to Hample.

Hirten's obituary said his passion took him to Ghana this summer where he volunteered as a soccer coach for a month.

"When not playing soccer, he was a great appreciator of music, an avid reader, an honor student and, as a political science major, he was passionate about many issues in the world," his obituary said.

In his hometown, there was a candlelight vigil at his high school soccer field and a memorial service.

Hirten's family requested contributions be made to the Preston Hirten Memorial Scholarship in lieu of flowers.

According to Vice President for Student Affairs Douglas Searcy, many of Hirten's teammates



Courtesy of Marty Morrison

and coaches traveled together by bus to Hirten's hometown for the candlelight vigil and funeral.

Friday's memorial will be an open event.

"Please come to remember Preston and reflect upon our connections to him and to one another," Hample said.

According to Searcy, the Office of Student Affairs continues to provide support for students at this time.

Counseling and support is also available for students at Counseling and Psychological Services, located in Lee Hall, Room 106.

Appointments may also be made by phone at 540-654-1053.

"There is a tight knit community that is surrounding the team and supporting them in this difficult time,"



Samantha Daniel/Bullet

The banner created by fellow UMW athletes in Hirten's honor.

Understaffed, Library Struggles to Keep Up

By SARAH SANDERS
Staff Writer

Despite recent obstacles in staffing, the Simpson Library will maintain its regularly scheduled hours of operation this semester.

A little less than a month prior to the start of the academic year, the Simpson Library staff suffered major losses in staffing with the resignation of a reference librarian, whose name will not be released, and the hospitalization of Circulation Services Supervisor Beth Perkins due to a heart condition. It is unclear when or if Perkins will rejoin the UMW library staff.

The loss of these two central employees has left the Simpson staff with only two full-time staff members to cover the circulation services and the weekly 91 hours that the library is open for use as well.

In order to make up for the lack of staff, the library was granted permission to hire two part-time librarians until further arrangements can be made.

"We were very lucky...if we weren't able to hire somebody so quickly we would have definitely had to change our hours," Reference and Sciences Librarian Christie Glancy said.

For students in search of work, the library employment troubles have not affected the number of students hired by the library this semester. As usual, over a dozen students were hired to assist in both circulation and reference areas on a part-time basis.

While both Glancy and University Librarian Roy Strohl stated that no changes would take place regarding operating times, the library may not be out of the woods yet. Strohl said that they have yet to hear the final news on

budget cuts for this year.

"The middle to the end of next week is when we will find out what cuts will be made," Strohl said.

Until this report is in, Strohl and his staff have no idea what cuts and adjustments will have to be made.

As news of the possible budget cuts have begun to circulate about campus, students have expressed their concerns over the potential effects of these cuts. Mark Katy Hancock, a junior resident of Bushnell, is still concerned with changes in library hours of operation, despite reassurance from library staff.

"I'm pretty much here till close every day," Hancock said. "My dorm has no air conditioning, and the library is also a place where I can get away from my noisy suitemates."

Any changes the library may go through will be announced following the analysis and release of this year's budget report.

Viewpoints

With a New School Year Comes Changes to the Newspaper

This newspaper is yours. In a time when newspapers and magazines are folding like origami, college publications are some of the few pillars of print journalism that remain standing. The *Bullet* gives you a weekly dose of facts, insight and laughter; and is absolutely free.

Staff Editorial

College is the only time in your life when 15 hours a week is considered full-time, so use the rest of your week to explore our gorgeous campus's many secrets and nooks. Just make sure you don't step on the

seal on the floor of the Trinkle lobby; legend has it you won't graduate on time if you do.



image courtesy of umw.com

As you set up your dorm rooms, muddle through Eaglelink and judge your roommate based on their Facebook profile, the *Bullet* is in a period of adjustment as well. Along with a new staff, we have a new printer and a jazzed-up website. Our shiny new video camera indicates that the *Bullet* is finally entering the 21st century. Keep checking umwbulet.com for videos, breaking news and other web-exclusive updates.

To freshmen and transfer students: welcome! We're glad you're

Whether you're new to UMW, or you've been wreaking havoc on Campus Walk for years, we want to hear from you. Our job is to inform and entertain you, and we can't do that without your input. Please send news tips, comments, suggestions, letters-to-the-editor and cookie recipes to umwbulet@gmail.com. Have a great year, Mary Wash.



"Grab your beer goggles and saddle up!"

Copyright 2009—Steve Karkos

Political Differences Should Not Lead to Intolerance

BY LEAH KIEFF
Guest Columnist



I was surprised yesterday when a liberal friend of mine turned to me in class bemoaning the intolerance and harshness of not a conservative, but another liberal.

I was surprised that my friend not only recognized intolerance and close-mindedness when it appeared in one of her own, but that she would go as far as to be shocked by it, commenting that she, "couldn't believe how someone who preached tolerance could be so intolerant."

These sentiments are all too familiar among the political minorities of this school, stereotyped as being intolerant when in reality the vast majority of these minorities, while perhaps wary of certain viewpoints, are not intolerant of them.

Perhaps Voltaire expressed these sentiments best when he said, "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

I have always valued the freedoms of this country and loved the richness of debate.

While sometimes I am infuriated by my

peers' comments, I love that these points are made.

I respect anyone who has a well thought out, well reasoned, fact-based argument for anything.

I may disagree and argue with you, but I respect and love that you are putting your argument out there.

Such arguments have helped me question my own views and open my eyes to other perspectives.

Intolerance arises not only from the desks of the classrooms, but from the podiums as well.

Professors who present their own opinions without facts or opposing and supporting positions are wasting their students' time and money.

This is not teaching; it is preaching.

My favorite professor began the first day saying that if at the end of the semester we knew his personal political leanings, then he had not done his job.

There have been classes where I have felt as though I couldn't express an opinion because mine would differ from that of the professor, resulting in either a reprimand or a snide retort.

I have witnessed this preaching in many different departments.

I would never want anyone to say students or professors at Mary Washington were intolerant.

I would want someone coming here to be impressed with the well-rounded, balanced education presented by professors and the thoughtful, well founded and eloquently expressed viewpoints of the students.

I would ask everyone, liberals, conservatives, anarchists, wherever you fall on the spectrum, to show respect for all viewpoints.

So, for the sake of the freshmen, can't we practice tolerance?

Leah Kieff is a junior.

image courtesy of static thefrisky.com

Letter and Editorial Policy

The *Bullet* is always eager to receive letters to the editor and guest columns, and every effort is made to print them.

Letters should be submitted the Monday before publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, and columns should not exceed 700 words.

We will not publish anonymous submissions. Letters must include a phone number and address for purposes of verification. They can be mailed to the *Bullet* at 1701 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA, 22401-4666, delivered to our office in Seacobeck Hall or sent to our e-mail at umwbulet@gmail.com.

Opinions expressed in columns or letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff. Contact the *Bullet* at 540-654-1133.

the
Bullet

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The *Bullet* is published on Thursday afternoons during the fall and spring semesters. All decisions are made by the editorial board, independent of the *Bullet* adviser.

Viewpoints

A College Warning: Freedom Comes With Obligations

I walked by Jefferson Hall earlier, the lawn strewn with Target and Pottery Barn belongings. Collecting newspaper interviews, I watched anxious parents and excited freshmen as they moved in to the residence hall with no air conditioning, no stoves, and, amazingly enough, no parents.

Four years earlier, it was my belongings lying on the sidewalk outside Jefferson's entrance.

That isn't the only memory.

Sitting here as I type in my air-conditioned, wireless, downtown apartment, I recall my dorm room feeling as unbearably stuffy as the outdoor Virginia air I had never before encountered. I remember trying to cook in a microwave, and the consequent sounds of many fire alarms.

Then there are the late night memories (or perhaps, loss of some) and early morning memories. This is how I first bonded with one of my closest friends.

Early in the morning, I walked into the bathroom and saw her with mussed makeup, a rat nest in her hair and the same clothes she had been wearing last night when we were watching a movie in the guys' room on the first floor.

I certainly never judged her for that incident, since I myself don't have an infallible record. However, it isn't always a best friend who walks in on you the following morning. The media worsens this situation, with television shows like "Greek" and movies like "American Pie" that exhibit college as a rowdy, fun-loving life with no consequences.

With this media infiltration, many students enroll with the assumption that college life is about sex and partying and no responsibility for your actions.

But when you have sex with the girl or guy down the hall, or you drank so much that you don't remember how you got home from the party on Wolfe Street, Dandridge Street or College Avenue, people almost always find out.

Entering college, and in effect dropping off your parents at the door, is very free and exhilarating. Imagine the luxury of staying up all night, going to parties, buying beer with your "fake" and having friends over whenever you want (Just don't get caught.). With this new freedom, though, you are entirely responsible for your own

actions. When you do something stupid, you have to see and live with these same people every day.

The television shows are enticing, but they just aren't real. When you are arriving as a new freshman at the University of Mary Washington, enjoy the liberties that you find. It is fun, and you should have a great time.

College is not, however, just a party. You are molding the person, academically, physically and socially, that you will be for yourself and others for the next four years. Not every person who walks in on your mistakes becomes your closest friend.

Sexclamations
By Brittany De Vries,
News Editor

A Last Summer of Concerts Gives Way to the Real World

I spent my Last Summer of Independence on a concert-binge.

Taking advantage of the last extended time period where I could live rent-free and guilt-free in my parents' house, any pocket money I could scrounge went straight to my Ticketmaster account. Along with juggling an unpaid internship and night-shifts at a bookstore, I am now on a first-name basis with every pierced and tattooed bouncer at just about every music venue in the Washington D.C. area.

I learned a lot of things this summer, but the most resonating lesson was this: The 'real world' sucks.

Nine-to-Five is my equivalent of Dante's Inferno, only with fewer changes in scenery. After 10 straight 40-hour weeks of staring at a computer screen in a claustrophobic cube, I'm starting to have second thoughts about my decision to graduate college a semester early this December.

Concerts were my oxygen mask. After work, I would untuck my blouse and escape to rock venues where I could flaunt the holes in my pantyhose instead of hiding them. Starting with Bruce Springsteen in May, my soundtrack of the hottest months included M. Ward, Jenny Lewis and the Sir Paul McCartney. The climax came in early August, with the three-day songasm that is Lollapalooza in Chicago.

Sure, I spent hundreds of dollars in a time when coupon-clipping is the new black...but better to get out of my system now, while my parents still feed me. Right?

My last hurrah of the summer was the Virgin Freefest, billionaire Richard Branson's charitable

gift to hipsters in light of our wounded economy. Held the Sunday after the first week of classes, the free festival featured pop rock veterans Weezer and Blink-182, the two bands that shaped my adolescence.

In a way, Freefest was my last day of childhood. Before returning to a final chaotic semester of deadlines and Facebook melodrama, I got once last chance to stop giving a damn. I spent the entire day skipping around in my Converse All-Stars, gorging on fried food and avoiding impromptu mosh-pits. The fountain of youth flows on.

While I made it through Weezer's set with full cheering capacity, the final and most sentimental act, was much more of a challenge. There, on stage after a two-year break-up, was a trio of

musicians I worshiped through middle school and high school, what will probably be the seven hardest years of my life. While posters of their puppy-eyed faces are longer plastered on my bedroom walls, to this day, I remain a savant of everything



Susannigans
By Susannah Clark,
Editor in Chief



image courtesy of chicagotribune.com

Blink-182—lyrics, liner notes and dates each member has taken to the Grammys.

While it was a nostalgic thrill to see the band play together again, the simpleton lyrics and power-chord progressions failed to hold up compared to the countless indie and classic rock concerts I treated myself to this summer.

We made it through four songs. It was 10:30 p.m., and all I wanted to do was go to bed. We left the pavilion early, to beat concert traffic and make it home by midnight.

Well, I guess this is growing up.

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Entertainment

"District 9" In Good Company

By **MISSAK ARTINIAN**
Staff Writer

I think it would only be fair of me to preface this review of Neil Blomkamp's "District 9" with a honest confession: I am about as much of a sci-fi nut as I am good looking. For those who don't personally know me, let's just say that, on a scale that measures attractiveness, I fall somewhere above the alien race that inhabits District 9 and a little underneath Seth Rogan before he lost weight.

Joking aside, my point remains. I am a fan-boy of many, many things: science fiction not being one of them. You will never find me wearing a Captain Picard costume at the midnight showing of the latest "Star Trek" movie. A gray beard and a wizard's hat at a "Lord of the Rings" convention? Been there, done that. Bald head

and a red jumpsuit? Not on your life.

Now that's not to say that I'm prejudiced against the genre, at least not to the degree that the humans that live in District 9 are toward the "prawns." These arthropod-like alien beings are subjected to the tyranny and unjust treatment of the human race, who collectively agree to evict and relocate the "prawns" from their shanty, segregated ghetto communities into what seem like tented concentration camps.

Indeed, as I'm sure you'll come to understand, I'm not prejudiced against science fiction at all. I would never forcefully displace the rich and extensive genre away from its rightful home, which is among the high ranks of such favorite genres as mystery, romance, westerns, fantasy, and my personal favorite, comedy.

My reputation as a film connoisseur, and indeed a critic, would lose all credibility if I didn't acknowledge the contributions that the following gems have made to film: "Blade Runner," "Terminator 2," "The Matrix," the original "Star Wars" trilogy and, in my view, the king of them all, Stanley Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey."

What do all the aforementioned films have in common? Granted, they all fall under the umbrella of science fiction, but there is another, more important similarity. They are all great films, period. They are so because they probe and dissect thought-perplexing concepts like artificial intelligence, evolution, religion and existentialism in unique and unexpected ways through narrative and, especially in science fiction, through special effects.

"District 9" is no different.

The film interestingly begins in a mock-documentary style that establishes the setting, the characters and the fictional history surrounding Johannesburg, South Africa, with the same shaky cinematography that moviegoers will find reminiscent of 2008's "Cloverfield." In the first 20 or so minutes, we get a good sense of what's going on through a series of interviews with important characters, newsreels and anecdotes.

We also meet Wikus Van De Merwe, who works for Multinational United, which is a pri-

vate military contractor. When Merwe is promoted to manage the relocation process, he personally visits the ghettos (with backup, of course) and knocks on doors, politely asking the "prawn" to agree and accept the terms of relocation by signing a contract. The many "prawns" who oppose these terms are treated with force.

As the plot thickens and the suspense escalates, Merwe confiscates a mysterious alien tube and is then exposed to the tube's contents. I won't spoil what happens, but I'll just say that Merwe's promotion was perhaps more than what he bargained for.

It's also important to note that the film's setting in South Africa is no accident. Exploring themes of segregation, xenophobia and isolation, the social and racial parallels between "District

9" and the real world are as implicit as they are explicit. The title of the movie alludes to District Six, an inner-city residential area in Cape Town, Africa where over 60,000 of the city's inhabitants were forcefully relocated in mass by the Apartheid regime.

At this point, only a few questions remain: does "District 9" deserve to be categorized with science-fiction godfather "2001: A Space Odyssey?" Do the complex themes and narrative-style in "District 9" perplex our minds and delight us in unique and unexpected ways? Is "District 9" the kind of film that crosses generational lines, the kind of film that everyone should see, even if you've convinced yourself that you don't particularly enjoy science fiction films? Yes, yes, and yes.



photo courtesy of impawards.com

Basterds Not So Inglourious

More to Tarantino's Latest Than "Killin' Nattzies"

By **KATIE B. O'CONNOR**
Staff Writer

Rewriting the end of World War II is a daring feat that only someone as arrogant and undeniably talented as Quentin Tarantino could accomplish. As we all know from "Inglorious Basterds" memorable trailer, "killin' nattzies" is the central plot device of this highly-anticipated thriller, yet there are so many other layers that could make this film Tarantino's first shot at an Oscar nod since "Pulp Fiction" in 1994.

First, there is Shosanna (heart-wrenchingly played by Melanie Laurent), a young Jewish woman living in Paris who has sworn revenge upon the German Colonel who murdered her family. Shosanna is so real in her fury that she transcends the cartoonish violence usually depicted in Tarantino films.

The German Colonel Landa (Christoph Waltz) is a perfect villain, his smiling cruelty masked by bright eyes and a giggle. Landa also stands out among the characters with his irrepressible energy that is both charming and bewildering.

Brad Pitt is precise and consistent as Lt. Aldo Raine; his satiric Appalachian accent is spot-on and fits together nicely with his squinting, cynical eyes. "Inglorious Basterds" proves once

again that Pitt is most enjoyable when he delves into an off-beat character and truly makes it his own—memorable performances from "Burn After Reading," "Snatch" and "Fight Club" also come to mind. Raine's character functions with the same biting wit that is synonymous with Tarantino classics, yet he still evokes a sense of righteousness in his brutality.

Anyone who remembers the Mexican standoff in "Reservoir Dogs" knows that Tarantino is a master in creating tension. An awkward lunch and a few drinks among friends become long, painful scenes saturated with suspense to the point where I felt as though I might develop an ulcer in the theater.

The dialogue (also written by Tarantino) straddles several languages—German, English, and French—yet is so well-crafted that the transitions among them are completely seamless. When Shosanna reveals her final plan, she speaks with such poetry that it is obvious that the film's writing supercedes a typical action flick.

When, in the closing moments of the film, Lt. Raine comments that "I think this just might be my masterpiece," it is not just Pitt's character speaking, but Tarantino himself.



photo courtesy of aceshowbiz.com

By **LONDON JAMES**
Staff Writer

Welcome back to school from a hopefully awesome summer. No doubt, many of you noticed several changes that the University made to the school while most of us were away.

Most notably, the school opened The Underground, a combination of live music, sandwiches named after your favorite residence halls and

cozy booths that make it 5 o'clock every day underneath Lee Hall. Expect to pay less than the Nest for your alcohol, but don't expect to be able to use your meals—The Underground only accepts Flex, Eagle One, cash and credit cards.

Other than that, it appears that the campus did not make any other large changes. For that reason, here are the top five changes the school should have made over summer break:

1. Air Conditioning—

I think everyone can agree that installing air conditioning in all of the dorms would be more appreciated than replacing the signs on campus, but as of yet, it still has not happened. If you are fortunate enough to live in Alvey, Arrington or the Apartments, then you already have the luxury of climate control. For the rest of us, waking up in a pool of sweat is just one of the many charms of dorm life.

2. Moving Sidewalks—

In a setting where arriving to class on time is smiled upon, it would be wise for the school to invest in some state-of-the-art travel technology. Moving sidewalks would cut down on the impact walking to class has on our knees, thus making campus a healthier and happier place. Installing these souped-up sidewalks would not only make it easier to moonwalk on campus walk, but would also set the school apart from campuses where people actually walk places.

3. Water Fountains—

Have you ever walked down campus walk and realized how dry your mouth was from sleeping with your mouth open in the last class? Well, I certainly haven't, but installing water fountains on campus walk would be an easy solution for parched lips. Throwing in a Hawaiian Punch fountain here and there couldn't hurt either.

4. Amusement Park—

Who needs Eagle Village when you can have Eagle Mountain? Imagine the nation's largest university-themed amusement park right by campus and paid for entirely by alumni donations. Not only would this cause school spirit to go up, but it would also open up more opportunities for campus jobs as large animal mascots.

5. Giant Hot Tub—

There is so much unused space on campus. A giant hot tub is the perfect way to make use of it all. Nothing would feel better after a long day of classes than being able to step into a giant hot tub the size of Ball circle. People would be more relaxed, everyone's skin would be healthier, and little campus-employed bellhops could bring people towels, sparkling mountain water and delicious margaritas to people with fake UMW ID's.



photo by Justin Toney/The Bulletin

School officials break ground at potential site of "Eagle Mountain."

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Entertainment

Local Film Festival Returns

RIFF Opens Doors for Aspiring Filmmakers

By MISSAK ARTINIAN
Staff Writer

From the bizarre to the brilliant, the experimental to the conventional, the second annual Rappahannock Independent Film Festival showcased a wide range of creativity this year. The variety, and indeed the quality, varied among the short films; however, despite their shorter length, the best of the films retained much of the magic and power of their feature-length silver-screen siblings.

After all the screening sessions were over, and more than twenty-five short films were shown (some ran for a mere five minutes and others lasted more than an hour), only a few films were honored with awards for outstanding achievement.

"The Paradigm Shift," directed by Jon Barr and written and produced by Sam Holdren, won the award for "Best Student Film." This well-written, character-driven short features a professor by the name of Dr. Collins, who, in a pretentious voice, vehemently urges his students to never go down without a fight, to stand up and rebel against the man.

However, when Dr. Collins assigns his class to plan an assassination on the President, the dean forces Dr. Collins to apologize to his stu-

dents and the faculty for his ridiculous and offensive assignment. Because submissiveness is against his nature, Dr. Collins decides to practice what he preaches. He decides not only to not apologize, but also to exacerbate the situation by justifying his stance. The winner for best documentary went to "Beyond the Call," which was directed by Adrian Belic. This eighty-two minute documentary chronicles the heroic humanitarian efforts of three middle-aged men, Ed, Jim and Walt, who directly aid civilians in war-torn and impoverished parts of the world through their self-financed organization.

Among the many generous, courageous and selfless things they do, they buy a solar-powered oven for Afghan students in Afghanistan to help raise money for their school, give \$2,000 to a under-resourced textile company for employee salaries, and donate computers, clothing, food and other necessities to impoverished regions in Uzbekistan and Taiwan.

Heartwarming and heartbreaking at the same time, "Beyond the Call" had a powerful effect on the audience because of the anecdotes of personal sacrifice. At one point, one of the men admitted that he needed a root canal, but he didn't go through with it because it would cost him \$700. "Do you know how many pounds of rice that could buy?" the man asks.

The winner of best student film went to "Nunna Mia E La Barca" (My Grandmother and the Boat), which was an interesting twelve minute short that told the story of a woman who survived a sinking ship using voiceover narration and the flashbacks of the grandmother as a young girl on a boat.

All of the festival winner's were awarded \$300, except for Best in Show winner "Shadows" which earned \$500.



Writer and director Alexander Lang watches his Best-in-Show feature-length thriller, "Shadows," at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library.



photo courtesy of Andrew Decker

Trophies handcarved by Fredericksburg resident Bruce Blair were awarded to all of RIFF's winning filmmakers.

By RYAN MARR
Staff Writer

If there's one thing I learned at the Rappahannock Film Festival this past weekend, besides that sitting too close to a projector screen for an extended period of time will make you nauseous, it's that, compared to the other art forms, film making is hard work.

A lifetime of exposure to flawlessly edited Hollywood productions, despite honing my appreciation for the art of blowing stuff up, has left me spoiled with a blissful ignorance of the elbow grease necessary to produce an independent movie.

Thankfully, this year's crop of RIFF filmmakers expanded my rather narrow view of cinema with a variety of different approaches to the dilemma of making movies on a shoestring budget.

Car crash scenes were edited down to a single shot of an upside-down, spinning wheel. Surprisingly effective original music replaced expensive, copyrighted songs. The same names cropped up over and over again during the credits.

Alex Van Horn, writer and director of this year's Audience Choice Winner, "One Time Me and My Friends Robbed a Store!" took filmmaking to humorously thrifty level, arming actors with plastic toy guns, overdubbing gunshots with the sound of cast members yelling "bangity-bang," and depicting the ensuing violence by taping sheets of paper labeled "blood" everywhere.

In contrast, the festival's Best in Show win-

ner, "Shadows," written and directed by Alexander Lang, aimed for a bigger-budget feel, utilizing a large cast, tricky camera work that included a memorable train-mounted shot, and a feature-length format to achieve an atmosphere of suspense.

However, both films featured qualities—humor and suspense, respectively—that resonated with festival audiences. Without this resonant appeal, even the most expensive Hollywood blockbusters come up short, never adding up to more than the sum of a few cool panning crane shots or a schizophrenic editing sequence.

Highlights of this year's RIFF extended beyond just the projector screen at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library. Events also included a free show on Friday night at the University Cafe featuring musical acts Carlos I'm Pregnant, The Aquarium and Benji Ferree. Ferree, a D.C. musician whose last album dealt with the downfall and eventual death of child actor Bobby Driscoll (Peter Pan), had a few thoughts about the connections between music and film.

"My all-time favorite movie is 'Shadows' by John Cassavetes," Ferree said. "The acting in that movie was just as good as any Sam Cooke vocal, because it was the truth and everyone in the audience knew it."

When your pockets aren't as deep as Steven Spielberg's and half of your cast is still in high school, capturing that moment of truth becomes a testament to not only a filmmaker's skill and patience, but to their real palpable love of film. RIFF makes a case for the amateur filmmaker, the perennial underdog in a big-budget industry.

Bullet Points

Friday September 5

Thursday September 4

• "The Group Studio Faculty Art Show" grand opening at the DuPont Gallery from 5-7 p.m. Show runs from Sept. 4 - Oct. 9. (see inset)

• "Visions and Vistas: Folk Art from the Meadow Farm Museum" grand opening at Ridderhof Martin Gallery from 5-7 p.m. Show runs from Sept. 4 - Oct. 9. (see inset)

• "Adam Dodd Comedy Show" at Colonial Tavern (406 Lafayette Blvd.) Doors open at 9 p.m., cover is \$5. (540) 373-1313 for more information.

• Open-mic night at the Griffin Bookshop and Coffee Bar (723 Caroline St.) from 7-9 p.m. (540) 899-8041 or www.thegriffinbookshopcoffeebar.com for more information.

• DJ Scrubs plays the Bourbon Room (216 William St.) at 9 p.m. (540) 374-0404 or www.thebourbonroom.com for more information.

• WMWC-hosted dance party in the Underground from 9 p.m. - 2 a.m.

• Pete Fields Duo plays Kybecca Wine Bar (400 William St.) at 8 p.m. (540) 373-3338 or www.kybeccawinebar.com for more information.

• Pie Boys Flat bring their shifting allegiances to reggae, rock and roll, blues, soul and funk to the Underground at 9 p.m.

By PAIGE PATERNO
Staff Writer

The art department will host the grand opening of two exhibits at Ridderhof Martin and DuPont art galleries on Thursday Sept. 3 at 5 p.m.

"The Group Studio Faculty Art Show," a bi-annual exhibit featuring the work of UMW Professors Joseph Di Bella, Rosemary Jesionowski, Carole Garmen and Lorene Nickel, will be held in the DuPont Gallery. The showing will include pieces that range from paintings to mixed media installation to digital media and print.

The Ridderhof Martin exhibition, entitled "Visions and Vistas: Folk Art from the Meadow

Farm Museum," is composed of displays from the Meadow Farm Museum in Henrico County, Virginia.

Chris Gregson, the founder of Meadow Farm Museum Collection of Folk Art, recently joined the university faculty as the Historic Preservation Supervisor and pitched the idea of a folk art exhibit. Gregson will hold a discussion on Folk Art in Modern Times on Sept. 10 from 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Ridderhof Martin Gallery.

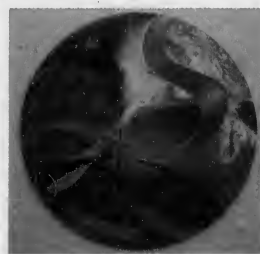
Both shows will run from Sept. 4 through Oct. 9. For more information, call the University Galleries at (540) 654-013 or visit www.umw.edu/galleries.

Saturday September 6

• Elby Brass brings their raw New Orleans funk to Sammy T's (801 Caroline St.) at 10 p.m. \$5 for 21+ \$7 for under 21. (540) 371-2008 for more information

• Cheap Seats is hosting "The Proposal" at 10 p.m. in Dodd Auditorium. Admission is \$1.

• Bluegrass jam at Picker's Supply (902 Caroline St.) from 2-5 p.m. (540) 371-4669 or www.pickersupply.com



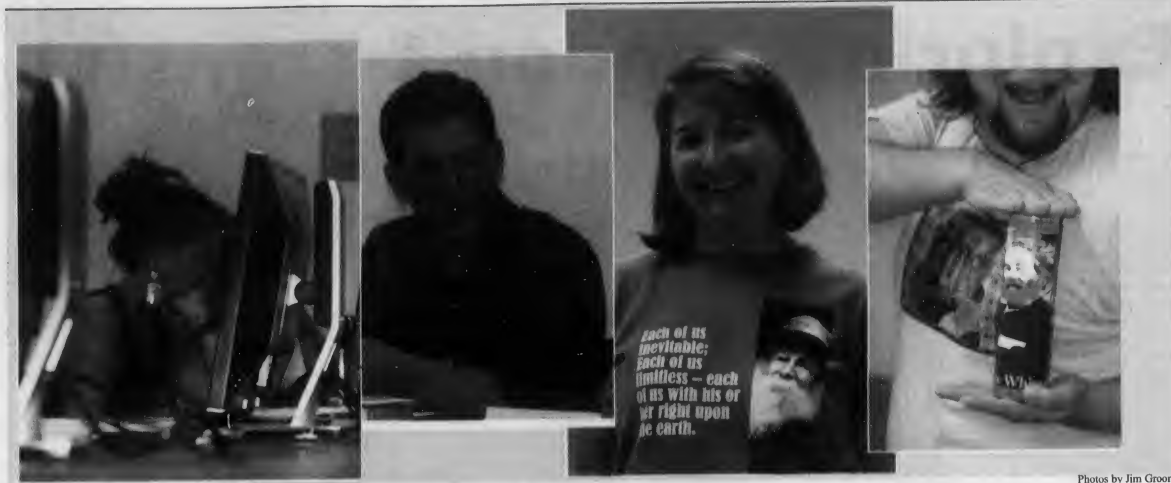
Title: Bind
42" round canvas
acrylic and acrylic collage
Joseph DiBella, 2009



Title: For Gaffurio
42" round canvas
acrylic and acrylic collage
Joseph DiBella, 2009

Interested in promoting an event in Bullet Points?
Send an email to: ryanmarr@gmail.com

Features



Photos by Jim Groom

Assistant Professor Mara Scanlon and Visiting Assistant Professor Brady Earnhart are two of the professors of the Digital Whitman course capped at 15 students.

Whitman Goes Digital

As a result of a \$25,000 National Endowment for the Humanities UMW is offering a class that combines the work of Walt Whitman with digital technology and geography.

By MEGAN EICHENBERG
Staff Writer

As the first week of classes kicked off last week, Jim Groom, instructional technology specialist and adjunct professor, used the social networking service Twitter to invite the public to give a shout out to the English, linguistics, and communication department's new English course, Digital Whitman.

Over the course of an hour, followers hailing from Sydney, Australia to Waco, Texas tweeted 140 characters or less lines of greetings and Walt Whitman prose in support of the course, which is one-fourth the result of a \$25,000 National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

The multi-university project, titled, "Looking for Whitman: The Poetry of Place in the Life and Work of Walt Whitman," originated from Matthew Gold, assistant professor of English at the University of New York City College of Technology.

Groom along with Mara Scanlon, associate professor of English, Brady Earnhart, visiting assistant professor of American literature and creative writing co-teach the Digital Whitman course at

Mary Washington.

In addition to Mary Washington and the New York City College of Technology, New Jersey's Rutgers University at Camden and Serbia's University of Novi Sad are also participating in the project with similar courses designed around studying the American poet in relation to geographical place.

Scanlon said Gold approached Mary Washington to participate in the project because of the course's emphasis on geographical areas that were important to Whitman during his lifetime.

"It's the most exciting course I've ever taught as far as the design of the course itself," Earnhart said.

According to Scanlon, the Mary Washington class, capped at 15 students, has three elements, consisting of Whitman and his work, digital technology, and geography.

At Mary Washington, students will travel to four local sites, including the Fredericksburg Civil War battlefields where Whitman's brother was wounded and Chatham Manor, where Whitman was inspired to be a nurse after assisting injured soldiers.

Class members will also visit the na-

tion's capital for a Whitman's wartime Washington walking tour and a private viewing of Whitman's archives at the Library of Congress.

"It's the most exciting course I've ever taught as far as the design of the course itself"
— Brady Earnhart

Scanlon said the Mary Washington course will particularly focus on Whitman's Civil War years while the New York City College of Technology will focus on Whitman's youth. Rutgers University at Camden will examine the poet's later life and the University of Novi Sad will give the "Leaves of Grass" author an international focus.

Earnhart said structuring the course around Whitman works well because students will make connections with other students similar to the way Whitman makes connections with his readers.

Students at each of the four schools will share their responses to Whitman's poetry, geographic experiences relating to the poet, photography, videos, and reflections through lookingforwhitman.org, designed by Groom, the project's technical liaison.

The website is based off of Wordpress, the multi-user publishing platform used to run UMW blogs.

Students can post their coursework to their own personal blogs while simultaneously publishing their assignments to the collective course blog.

That way, the shared projects can be seen at all campuses, Groom said, allowing each participant to expose work across all four schools.

Groom, who said he was "blown away" by Whitman when he originally discovered the poet in his freshman American literature class at George Mason University, says the course will

also make use of digital technology such as flipcams, Flickr, Youtube, Wikis, and Twitter.

"The thing that gets lost online is banter," Groom said, adding that the use of Twitter in addition to the blogs allows for banter and community to blur and build additional academic space.

"Twitter is another way of managing a distributed conversation," Groom said.

Groom explained the blog is more formal, where more academic work may happen, while Twitter enables others outside of the class to comment, learn and be involved with the project.

Scanlon said it will be interesting to see how the class's relationship with Whitman evolves based on the use of digital technology.

Students at each university will be required to post on the course blog, comment on other participant's blog posts, including posts made by students at other universities, annotate different editions of "Leaves of Grass," and work on other projects relating to Whitman in a geographical context.

In November, students at each university will use flipcams to record and

See WHITMAN, page 8 ▶

University Cafe Is Open Late

By KAITLIN MAYHEW
Staff Writer

For years, 409 William Street was a quiet place. The home of a moderately priced antique store, it was not so different from those that line the streets of Downtown Fredericksburg. After it went out of business, the chipped paint, and gutted inside made the address all the more deserted. On May 1, 2009 all of that changed. With the opening of University Cafe, 409 William Street bustled from that Friday on.

This new eatery, bar, and coffeehouse boasts a vintage, funky atmosphere that makes one feel almost as if they were in a far more urban setting than downtown Fredericksburg. Such a feel is warranted since the University Cafe is modeled after the popular Tryst Coffeehouse and Bar in Adam's Morgan, Washington D.C. who's own mantra is "No corporate coffee. No matching silverware."

University Cafe upholds its own laid-back, trendy ideals with its casually dressed wait staff serving up espresso coffee, cocktails, and draft

beers. The menu is no less eclectic offering everything from pancakes and omelet's that are served all day, to macaroni and cheese, to tofu steak and Japanese udon noodles.

All of the food is prepared fresh in the open kitchen located in the back left corner of the restaurant where anyone who chooses can watch their entrée being prepared. The prices are very college-kid and economic crisis friendly ranging from around \$3.50 to \$10.50. A couple could easily eat a full meal with drinks included for \$20.

The salads are one of the highlight offerings, which come in large bowls with a side of flat bread and heaping with your choices from 37 different toppings ranging from pulled pork to Manchego cheese and your choice of lettuce and dressing. If you're in the mood for something a little less healthy, customers can choose one of six pizzas ranging from vegetarian to "Meaty," or create their own from the 24 topping offerings.

The high 11-stool bar lines the right wall, and offers a variety of draft beers, a selection of Barefoot wine

and a full liquor bar.

The cafe offers free wireless internet and three flat screen TV's, that can be enjoyed on a varied set of furniture ranging from colorful couches, to plush armchairs, to long wooden tables.

The managers at University Cafe are very open to supporting the art scene in town. A gigantic mural graces one of the walls, and the rest are full of ever-changing works from local artists. They have also hosted various art shows over the summer.

The music in the cafe comes usually from an iPod, although they do sometimes hire live bands or DJ's to set the mood. They also host popular open mic nights where anyone from the community can come show off their musical talents.

University Cafe is likely to become an institution in Fredericksburg. Although it is obviously geared towards college students, walking through the doors reveals people of all ages enjoying the good coffee, eclectic, inexpensive menu, and drinks in groups, with laptops, or just at the bar.



Features

Exploring London's Transit

By **SADIE HAGBERG**
Staff Writer

Tuesday was finally here- the day. Well, the second day. After a cancelled Monday flight I was finally on my way to study abroad in London. And this time, success. After breezing through check-in, baggage, and security, I waited a good three hours at my gate. Finally they called us to board, welcoming us on Virgin Atlantic. As the plane's tires left the ground, I was relieved. Then suddenly overcome with excitement but also terrified. It was happening for real.

Although my one day delayed start of my venture to England was (thankfully) in no way reflective of my study abroad experience, the three hours that

First Person

I spent in the airport was a definite precursor to the amount of time I was to spend in airports, on airplanes, and using public transportation in general.

I was never one to like public transportation. I had very little experience with it, besides the T in Boston and the metro in D.C. and I had never needed to rely on it the way I did in Europe.

London was the perfect central location for traveling Europe, and had the perfect public transit. I could fly virtually anywhere in Europe for under 150 pounds round trip.

London's Heathrow Airport was a quick 45 minute tube ride from my dorm in Kensington on the west side of London.

I very quickly learned to love the Tube. It was the perfect way to get around the London. London's transportation soon began to appear far superior to the other transportation



Sadie Hagberg/Bullet

Senior Sadie Hagberg who studied abroad in England last spring poses on the London Tube, her favorite European transportation system, with classmates.

systems in each place I visited.

My travels began with a trip to Paris just three weeks after arriving in London.

This was where my love for the underground first became apparent. Already accustomed to the ease of the Tube, I was longing to leave the dirty Paris metro and return to my favored English Tube.

Two weeks later in Spain, I had similar reactions to the train that took us from our resort on the Mediterranean (which we snagged for an incredible price on hostelworld.com) into Barcelona. It just wasn't the Tube.

Amsterdam's tram system failed my expectations as well. While you could get away with riding for free, it seemed

you had a pretty

good chance of getting hit. The tracks ran down and across the streets where cars were driving, people were walking and bikers were biking. And the trams run quieter than you may think, making them quite hazardous. Biking though was by far the best and most trendy way to transport yourself around Amsterdam.

Continuing my European trek to Athens, I was once again disappointed in the unreliable transport system.

It was rickety, unsturdy, and made me nauseous. It was an easy system, consisting of just three lines and it brought you to the three most important places, the airport, the Acropolis, and the port of Piraeus where you catch all of the ships to the Greek Islands. But we were forced off the metro on our way to the airport because of political riots. The buses were advised to take were rerouted and provided us service right to the airport.

Once again, even the buses in Athens couldn't compare to the cherry red double deckers in London.

These buses, which most people assume are tour buses, are in fact another part of the London's transportation. Locals use them too.

The classic red buses, as representative of London as the red phone booths and Big Ben, are probably one of the best ways to see the city. Sitting up top as the driver travels down the "wrong" side of the road, weaving in and out of traffic wondering if the driver will stop, or hit the car that's stopped in front of you, is a rush.

After each place I travelled, it felt amazing to return "home." While spring break in Greece was great, and Portugal was breathtaking, London was comforting and felt like home. Stepping off the plane into the airports that I began to know quite well and onto the Tube was virtually my backbone, London felt right. I knew, with each time returning to London, that I had become assimilated with the culture.

I had become possessive over "my" transportation of London; thinking that it was far better than any other transportation system in Europe. It was cleaner, it made sense. To me, it was just better.

Whitman Redefined

◀ WHITMAN, page 7

post a video about their own relationship with Whitman by reading an excerpt of Whitman's work in the place where the student discovered Whitman.

The "My Walt Whitman" assignment, Scanlon explained, is not just about place, but about time as well, and how students perceive the poet in 2009 in a specific place, such as Fredericksburg.

Earnhart said that by taking the course, students have the opportunity to obtain a deep knowledge of Whitman through the use of technology.

"Whitman himself was on the cutting edge of technology during his time," Earnhart said, likening Whitman to someone today involved with computer programming by citing the poet's use of the printing press to set his own print.

Junior Erin Longbottom, an English major, decided to register for the class after hearing classmates talking about the course and reading the course description.

"Everything about the class was totally different from anything I'd done as an undergraduate so far," she said, adding, "I felt like if I didn't take this class I'd be missing something really cool."

Longbottom began reading Whitman's poetry when she was younger, after watching the movie *Dead Poet's Society*, which references the poet.

Besides a desire to learn more about Whitman, the course's emphasis on technology appealed to Longbottom.

"I have an active interest in sharing technology on the internet...so combining the study of a classic American poet with blogging and other technology was something too good to pass up for me," she said.

Longbottom said using digital technology, such as Twitter and blogs, will allow for a free flow of ideas among students and professors while also putting the course on a global scale, because it enables anyone to see what the class is doing and thinking relating to the Whitman project.

"I think Twitter is going to be a really good tool as far as that goes, because so many people can quickly reply to something we post there. It's a moment by moment account of what we're experiencing, and especially when we go on field trips and work on projects, it's going to be interesting to see a play by play of what everyone is thinking and feeling as we go through the class," she said.

Scanlon said Gold applied for an initial grant in 2007 to fund planning the course, while the most recent grant awarded was used for additional funding for activities, such as the course fieldtrips.

Faculty members from each university met in the months leading up to the course launch and took part in a round table discussion at a Modern Language Association convention to discuss the grant and plan course details.

Next spring, Scanlon said the four universities participating in the project hope a student conference can be held where all the class participants can meet each other and further discuss the courses and Whitman and his poetry in relation to geographical place.

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News

Outside the Fence



By HEATHER BRADY
Staff Writer

Regional

An inmate in the Rappahannock Regional Jail is being tested to determine if he impregnated his 15-year-old step-daughter. The inmate, a Spotsylvania resident who is not being named to protect the identity of the child, is charged with rape and three counts of taking indecent liberties with a child. Buccal swabs from the suspect were obtained so that the suspect's DNA can be compared to tissue from the child's aborted fetus, court records state. According to the affidavit, the victim is now 14. She told authorities that her 46-year-old stepfather has been sexually assaulting her since she was 10. Court records show that she told a guidance counselor that since 2006, the suspect had been coming into her bedroom and improperly touching her. An investigation began after the guidance counselor reported the child's allegations to authorities. The girl told police she had not had sexual contact with any other males, and no other males live in the home. The suspect was arrested July 7. An abortion was performed Aug. 12, and De-Moranville obtained a tissue sample from the fetus. The case against the suspect will be considered by a Spotsylvania grand jury Sept. 21. (*The Free Lance-Star*, Sept. 2; www.fredericksburg.com)

National

James W. von Brunn, the 89-year-old man accused of killing a guard at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in June, was on a suicide mission and had planned the attack months in advance, Federal Prosecutor Nicole Waid said in court yesterday. Waid made the accusations in a brief hearing in the District's federal court during which von Brunn spoke publicly for the first time since the shooting. "The Constitution guarantees me a speedy and fair trial," the elderly white supremacist said, sitting in a wheelchair next to his defense attorney. Von Brunn is accused of killing security guard Stephen T. Johns on June 10, after Johns held open the door for him so he could enter the popular museum, located near the National Mall. Other guards returned fire, critically wounding von Brunn in the face. Von Brunn has not been able to walk since the shooting and has had difficulty speaking and hearing, his attorney, A.J. Kramer, said in court. (*The Washington Post*, Sept. 2; www.washingtonpost.com)

Global

Saeed Jalili, Iran's top nuclear negotiator, said Tuesday that the country is ready to reopen talks with world powers increasingly concerned about Iranian intentions, according to the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency. The announcement came a day before a meeting in Germany of representatives from six nations, including the U.S., that are seeking to develop a strategy for addressing Iran's nuclear ambitions. "Iran has prepared to present its revised package of proposals . . . and is ready to hold talks with world powers . . . in order to ease common concerns in the international arena," state television quoted Jalili as telling reporters. Iranian officials did not comment on whether the timing of the proposal is connected to the Sept. 15 deadline set by the White House for Iran to respond to an offer to reopen talks on the nuclear issue. U.S. officials say Iran has responded to previous offers only with vague generalities that did not provide a basis for negotiations, and President Obama has suggested that if Iran does not make a serious counteroffer by the end of this year, it could face renewed sanctions. U.S. officials said Tuesday that they would reserve judgment until they receive an official communication from Iran. (*The Washington Post*, Sept. 2; www.washingtonpost.com)

Wittman Questioned in Health Care Debate

◀ TOWN HALL, page 1

planning."

Points were also made addressing the need for more incentives for medical students opening general and family practices.

"We absolutely need to do more on the preventative side," Wittman said in agreement.

According to the Central Intelligence Agency Factbook: the United States' life expectancy is the 50th highest in the world, at 78.11 years.

W. M. Blaine of Spotsylvania attended the forum to support the health care plan. He said every week he attends church and asks himself, "How can I sit here in church when our country does not provide health care for nearly 50 mil-

lion of its citizens?"

Rather than revising the nearly 1100-page bill, Wittman proposes starting over altogether.

He stated that the bill must accomplish three things: reduce the overall cost of health care, not interfere with the aspects of the system that he currently work and focus on the currently uninsured citizens.

Wittman also outlined 13 points to achieve these goals, such as tax incentives to purchase health care, reduction in unnecessary medicine, competitive private alternatives to government healthcare and affordable care even for those with preexisting conditions.

Busy Agenda Underway for New SGA President

◀ MILLER, page 1

welcomed challenge.

"There's a difference in leadership," Miller said. "I'm able to make a connection with the women on campus, different than the males. And I think maybe that's a voice that isn't always heard."

Senior Ashley Davis, who ran against Miller in the SGA Presidential election, affirmed her abilities.

"I am very excited for the Sam Miller administration," Davis said. "She has been so actively involved

in school clubs and knows the things that students want changed. I am excited to work with her and help her in any way I can."

In the long run, Miller hopes that her presidency will help to give a voice to those students that feel they don't have one of their own.

"My biggest goal," she said, "is to have a forum for students to share their opinions. We need to make sure we're listening to students."

If you're interested in having your voice heard by Sam and other administrators and student leaders, come to the UMW Town Hall, Wednesday Sept. 9 at 7 p.m.

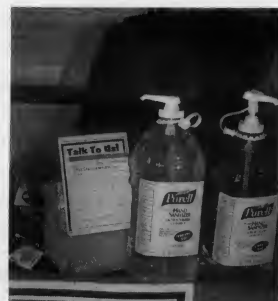
Campuses Tracking Cases of Swine Flu

◀ SWINE, page 1

situations of higher education.

Most of the recommendations focus on the idea of ill students self-isolating, and mention some of the same preventative measures that were emphasized by the Mary Washington administration, as well as by the U.S. Center for Disease Control, for the community at large.

The University has distributed hand sanitizers to common public areas on campus, according to the Office of Public Safety and Community's email message, and highly encourages students to buy their own hand sanitizer for personal use as well. Vaccines for the swine flu will be available in October on campus, along with vaccines for other seasonal flu strains.



Samantha Daniel/Bullet

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Got any great photos of Mary Washington scenes? People? Dean Rucker?



Courtesy of kidtechreview.com

Send them to umwbullet@gmail.com, and you might see them appear in an upcoming Bullet edition!

What's Up In Campus Dining?



Get To Know Us!

Meet Nicholas Flick, Food Service Manager

Nicholas joined our campus dining team in July of 2008 after graduating with a degree in Hotel/Restaurant Planning and Control from Niagara University. Nick is probably one of the most dedicated, congenial, and hardest working individuals you will ever meet: a total team player! One of the things that impressed Nick the most here at UMW was the huge student participation in our Thanksgiving dinner last year. He loved that event and is looking forward to being part of this great tradition again in November. When asked what he liked most about his job, Nick said "I enjoy interacting with students and helping make their dining experiences more enjoyable." So, if you ever have a question, suggestion, or concern, be sure to talk with Nick. He will always do whatever he can to help make your day a better day!



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 3:** **The Red Hot Chef is Back!!** - Hot dogs with all the fixings! 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM in the Dome Room at Seacobeck Hall.
- Late Night Luau on the Deck at the Nest!** 11 PM to 1:30 AM. Nest menu will include tropical smoothies and other goodies! Island music and decor! (No admission charge. Food and drinks available for purchase.)
- September 4:** **Late Night Karaoke at the Eagle's Nest.** 11 PM - 1:30 AM. Bring your friends and sing up a storm!
- September 6:** **Premium Sunday Brunch!** Lavish buffet with Carving station, Made-To-Order Omelets, and Premium Desserts. Most Sundays. 11 AM - 2 PM at Seacobeck.
- September 8:** **Middle-Eastern Heritage Celebration.** Enjoy falafel features in the South Market for dinner. 5 - 7 PM.
- September 10:** **Red Hot Chef presents "Student's Choice" feature: Funnel Cake Straws!** South Market for dinner - 5 to 7 PM.



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Spring 2010

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Sports



2009 NFL Preview - NFC

By **ZACH MORETTI**
Staff Writer

The NFL season is almost upon us. Everyone starts fresh with a clean slate and the dream that this could be their year. This will be the first part of a two part series that will break down the divisions and project how each team will finish. This week will concentrate on the NFC, but be sure to check back next week for the AFC preview.

NFC EAST

1) *New York Giants*- The Giants bring back star RB Brandon Jacobs and have just recently locked up franchise QB Eli Manning long term. The defense should be stellar once again and they should continue to wreak havoc on opposing quarterbacks with DE's Justin Tuck and Osi Umenyiora. The receivers are a question mark for the Giants, but they have one of the top offensive lines in all of football and they will give Manning time to find the open receiver. This team should be a great team once again and win another NFC East title.

2) *Dallas Cowboys*- The Cowboys parted ways with controversial WR Terrell Owens and some question the Dallas receiving corps now that Owens is gone. But, Dallas is confident that WR Roy Williams will bounce back from a terrible 2008 campaign and the team still has one of the top TEs in the league in Jason Witten. The backfield is loaded with talent and Marion Barber and Felix Jones have healed from injuries that hobbled them last season. Outstanding LB DeMarcus Ware leads the defensive unit that racks up sacks and CB Terrance Newman leads a good



Courtesy of news.bostonherald.com

QB Michael Vick returned to the NFL after a two year absence when the Eagles signed him to a two year contract in mid August.

secondary. The Cowboys have all the talent, it's just a matter of them putting it together on the field. They should be in the playoff hunt once again.

3) *Philadelphia Eagles*- Philadelphia has long time QB Donovan McNabb back at the helm and he, along with star RB Brian Westbrook, will lead what should be an explosive offense. On defense the team goes on without captain and team leader in FS Brian Dawkins, who was let go in free agency, and they also enter this season without long time defensive coordinator Jim Johnson, who passed away. They still have stud DE Trent Cole and standout CB Asante Samuel, but it is unclear how the defense will respond to the numerous changes and the controversial signing of QB Michael Vick could prove to be more of a distraction than he's worth. Regardless, this team is still very talented and should compete for a playoff berth.

4) *Washington Redskins*- Washington has a great defense and they should only get better with the addition of DT Albert Haynesworth. The team has a talented secondary led by CB Carlos Rodgers and a solid group of linebackers built around veteran London Fletcher-Baker. The problem with the Redskins is on the offensive side of the ball. The team twice tried to replace QB Jason Campbell, but they were unsuccessful in their efforts and are therefore stuck with him for another season. The Redskins still have a workhorse in RB Clinton Portis, and TE Chris Cooley is one of the top at his position in the league. But the Redskins are in a tough division with a weak offensive line and there just doesn't seem to be enough firepower on offense for this team to vie for the playoffs.

NFC SOUTH

1) *New Orleans Saints*- New Orleans is known for their offense and they are still led on that side of the ball by franchise QB Drew Brees. The Saints are hoping to have star WR Marques Colston for a full season and the running game should be improved as RBs Pierre Thomas and Reggie Bush should prove to be a good tandem. The defense hasn't magically changed and won't be in the top five in the league, but they should be better. FS Darren Sharper was a nice addition to the team and they still have talented players in DE Will Smith and LB Jonathan Vilma. This team is so explosive offensively that their defense only has to be average for them to capture the NFC South crown.

2) *Carolina Panthers*- Carolina looks to build off their success in 2008, and if they continue to hand the ball off to RBs DeAngelo Williams and Jonathan Stewart they could see similar results. But in order to keep defenses honest and not have them stacking eight or nine guys in the box, QB Jake Delhomme is going to have to improve. He does have a great target in WR Steve Smith, who is a perennial Pro-Bowler, but outside of that his options are thin in the passing game. The defense is certainly capable of getting stops and they have a lot of talent on that side of the ball. LB Jon Beason is a tackling machine, DE Julius Peppers racks up sacks and CB Chris Gamble is a shutdown corner. But while this team is definitely going to be in the playoff hunt, their fate will be determined by the play of their quarterback.



Courtesy of footballspeech.com

In 2008, Saints QB Drew Brees was just 15 yards short of breaking Dan Marino's NFL record for passing yards in a single season.

3) *Atlanta Falcons*-

cons- The Falcons are coming off a remarkable season where rookie QB Matt Ryan played extremely well. Ryan will once again get to hand the ball off to last year's breakout star, RB Michael Turner. The offense also has Pro-Bowl WR Roddy White and they traded to acquire future Hall-of-Fame TE Tony Gonzalez from the Kansas City Chiefs. The defense is where the Falcons have issues. The team ranked 24th in yards per game allowed last year and they have since parted ways with LB Keith Brooking. The schedule is much tougher this season and while their offense is good, it isn't elite and it will be tough to make up for their sub-par defense. So while the Falcons could contend for the playoffs, a step-back year seems likely.

4) *Tampa Bay Buccaneers*- Tampa Bay has gone through dramatic changes since last season. They have a new head coach in tow and changed quarterbacks in the off-season, swapping out Jeff Garcia with Byron Leftwich. Leftwich will have some decent passing options in WR Antonio Bryant and newly acquired TE Kellen Winslow. The team also added RB Derrick Ward and he will be part of what should be a respectable ground game as he splits carries with RB Earnest Graham. The defense said goodbye to long time defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin and LB Derrick Brooks was cut, so it is unclear what to expect from that bunch. This team will be better than most people think, but they are clearly in rebuilding mode.

NFC NORTH

1) *Green Bay Packers*- The Packers were a disappointing team in 2008, but they were also quite unfortunate, losing seven games by 4 points or less. Look for those close games to balance out more this year as young QB Aaron Rodgers looks to build on a stellar season. Rodgers will once again have up-and-coming WR Greg Jennings to throw to and he will also have RB Ryan Grant to handle the running game. The Green Bay defense moves from the 4-3 scheme to the 3-4, but LB Aaron Kampman is great at getting to the opposing quarterback and the secondary is strong with CBs Charles Woodson and Al Harris. The defense doesn't have to be great, just solid as their offense should be a prolific one. Look for the Packers to battle it out with the Bears for NFC North supremacy.

2) *Chicago Bears*- The Bears finally got a franchise quarterback when they traded for Broncos QB Jay Cutler. Cutler won't have the weapons he had in Denver, but WR Devin Hester is developing into more than just a great return man and TE Greg Olsen is a good receiving threat as well. The ground game will again be good with RB Matt Forte leading the charge coming off an outstanding rookie season. The defense should be good, with their strength being a loaded linebacking corps led by LBs Brian Urlacher and Lance Briggs. The secondary is a bit of a question mark but the Bears have a lot of talent and should be in contention for the playoffs.

3) *Minnesota Vikings*- After all the waffling a decision was finally made and the Vikings signed future Hall of Fame QB Brett Favre. It is well known that Favre is tough, starting in a quarterback record 253 consecutive games, but that could prove to hurt Minnesota. Favre had a great start last year with the New York Jets, but he tore his bicep in his throwing arm in the middle of the season. Yet Favre played through the pain and his play declined as the team, sputtered to a 1-4 finish and ended up missing the playoffs. Favre will turn 40 in October so health is a major concern, but the team does have a phenomenal player in RB Adrian Peterson and they should still lean on him heavily. The defense is a talented group with defensive line that boasts DTs Kevin and Pat Williams and DE Jared Allen. The team has the talent, but relying on a 40 year old QB to stay healthy makes the Vikings a coin toss.



Courtesy of the nj.com / The Associated Press

Brett Favre decided to end his retirement and return to football...again...

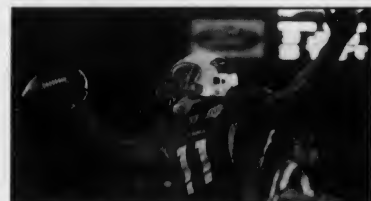
4) *Detroit Lions*- Abysmal. Dreadful. Horrendous. All of these words can be used to describe the 2008 Lions season, where they were the so bad that they finished with the first ever winless season in NFL history. The Lions selected QB Matthew Stafford first overall in the 2009 NFL Draft and while it is unclear whether Stafford will have the opportunity to start right away. It is almost certain that he will get his shot at some point this year. The team has some talented young weapons offensively with WR Calvin Johnson and RB Kevin Smith, but the offensive line still needs some work. Defensively the Lions are pretty slim on talent. LB Ernie Simms is a beast in the middle, but the team has a weak defensive line and the secondary is nothing to write home about. It is highly unlikely that Detroit will go winless yet again, but don't expect anything more than 4 or 5 wins.

NFC WEST

1) *Seattle Seahawks*- The Seahawks were bad in 2008, but they were also unlucky with several key players getting injured. QB Matt Hasselbeck has recovered from numerous injuries that kept him off the

field last year and Seattle gave him a new weapon to work with this season with the addition of WR T.J. Houshmandzadeh. The backfield isn't exactly loaded with the likes of Julius Jones and T.J. Duckett, but they should be good enough to keep defenses honest in what will surely be a pass happy offense similar to their 2007 team. The defense is anchored by MLB Lofa Tatupu and the Seahawks signed veteran CB Ken Lucas to help improve their secondary. If the defense can be middle of the pack then it should be enough for Seattle to win a rather weak division.

2) *Arizona Cardinals*- Arizona's 2009 fortunes rest solely on QB Kurt Warner and whether or not he can stay healthy for all 16 games. Warner was simply amazing a season ago and posted huge numbers,



Courtesy of Julie Jacobson / Associated Press

Cardinals WR Larry Fitzgerald was phenomenal last season. But he'll need his Pro-Bowl QB Kurt Warner to stay healthy if Arizona is going to make another run at the playoffs.

but it was the first time he had played in every game since 2001. It seems unlikely that he will be able to keep healthy for a full slate of games again, especially at the age of 38. There is plenty of talent for Warner to work with if he can stay on the field, with elite WRs Larry Fitzgerald and Anquan Boldin. The defense was decent last year but they do have some talent. FS Adrian Wilson is stellar and LB Karlos Dansby looks to build upon his career year. If Warner can stay healthy, this is a potential playoff team, but that's a big if.

3) *San Francisco 49ers*- The 49ers are built around franchise RB Frank Gore and head coach Mike Singletary has preached giving him the ball more, which should help San Francisco be more competitive. The signal caller for the 49ers this season will be QB Shaun Hill, who was decent in his time as a starter last year. At least for now, Hill will be without rookie WR Michael Crabtree, as he is holding out amidst a contract dispute. The defense was actually respectable last season and they are led by one of the best linebackers in the league in Patrick Willis. The 49ers won't be a pushover this season, but they won't drastically improve from last year either.

4) *St. Louis Rams*- The Rams have one thing going for them and that is stud RB Steven Jackson. There's just about nothing Jackson can't do on a football field, but getting on the field has been a problem for Jackson as he has missed time each of the past two seasons due to injuries. The team's quarterback is an issue as starter Marc Bulger has also been constantly injured the past few years. The defense isn't terrible and DE Chris Long should be good for years to come. But the Rams just don't appear to be at a place where they can consistently compete from week to week.

The 2009 NFL season kicks off on Thursday Sept. 10. The Tennessee Titans travel to Heinz Field to take on the defending Superbowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers at 8:30 p.m. on NBC.

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Sports

UMW Fall Sports Preview

By ZACH MORETTI
Staff Writer

Now that summer has wrapped up, UMW athletics is back in full swing and full sweat. Volleyball, men's and women's cross country, field hockey, and men's and women's soccer all look to build on their 2008 campaigns and hope to do even better in 2009.

The 2008 Eagles volleyball team had a solid season as they finished tied for third in the Capitol Athletic Conference (CAC) at 5-3 and had an overall record of 19-11. Last year's team was young; of the 15 players only three were seniors and eight were freshmen. Those young players getting experience right away should only help the team this year and beyond. The Eagles will have to do without the services of Kelley Hueber, a four-time All-Capitol-Athletic Conference player and one of the best volleyball players to ever suit up for Mary Washington, as she has graduated and her illustrious career has come to an end. UMW does return Senior Anne Lutkenhaus, who is coming off a season where she was awarded first-team All-CAC honors. With the combination of Lutkenhaus and the development of all the young talent on the team, the 2009 season looks to be a promising one. The new season kicks off on Sept. 4 when the team will travel to Virginia Beach for a tournament held by Virginia Wesleyan College.



Courtesy of Clint Offen

Senior Anne Lutkenhaus is looking to build on a strong 2008 season where she was named to the All-CAC first-team.

Both the men's and women's seasons begin at the Washington & Lee Invitational on Sept. 12 in Lexington.

The UMW field hockey team had a solid year in 2008, finishing third in the CAC with a 4-2 mark

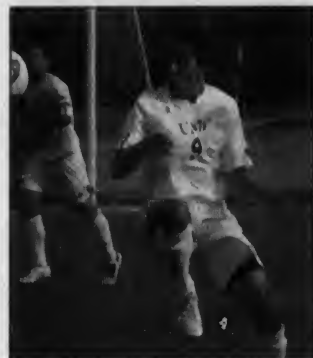
and with an overall record of 13-6. As is the case with the other fall sports teams at UMW, the field hockey team is also a young bunch as the team returns all but three players from last year and will only have three seniors again this season. Leading the team in the fall will be Senior Jaci Marshall and Junior Heidi Sheehan, who were both honored with First Team All-Conference selections a season ago. If the young talent got enough seasoning last year that they are more game-ready this season, then this team could rise to the top of the conference. But once again just like the other sports, the Eagles will have to overcome a Salisbury team that is defending their title and looks strong once again. The 2009 field hockey season will begin with a match at home against Lynchburg College on Sept. 1.

The men's soccer team had strong showing in 2008. They finished with an overall record of 9-5-3 and they went 5-1-2 in conference play, which was good for second place in the CAC. The team returns their leading point scorer in junior T.L. Tutor, who was not only an All-CAC player a year ago but was also named to the Virginia Sports Information Directory all-state college division team. The UMW soccer team has high hopes for the season but they will need to replace not only the performance of the five seniors who have moved on, but also their leadership if they are going to be successful this season. After a second place finish in the conference a year ago, the Eagles have their sights on moving up to claim that top spot.

On the women's side, the Eagles' female soccer team had a good showing in 2008 as they went 8-6-5 overall and 4-1-3 in CAC play to finish fourth in the conference. The team went through a youth movement as they started multiple freshmen every game and as many as five freshmen were in the starting lineup. Coach Corey Hewson will be entering his second season in command of the Eagles and he will need to replace goalkeeper Laura McCarthy, who has since graduated, and the position will be up for grabs between two sophomores. The team will also be looking to the young talent to really step up to fill the shoes of last season's leading scorer, Hannah Pearson, who also graduated last spring. The team will look to senior Kate Parvin for guidance and as well as sophomores Amy Olson and Nicole Dierkes, who are both rising young stars. A first place finish may be too lofty a goal for this particular team, but a top three finish seems attainable.

The men's soccer season will get underway with a home game on Sept. 1 against Virginia Wesleyan College at 4 p.m. The women's team will also start their season on the first, but on the road as they travel to Winchester, to take on Shenandoah University at 7 p.m.

As we return to school for another great year, it appears that the prospects for the fall sports teams look just as bright as ever.



Courtesy of Clint Offen

Junior Forward Tony Rodriguez looks to improve from his sophomore season when he was third on the team in points with 6.

Division 1-A Football Set To Begin

By NICK NELSON
Staff Writer

Mascots, marching bands, cheerleaders and fight songs are all in the air. Grills are being dusted off to prepare for tailgates, and Saturday afternoon is being taken up in everyone's schedule. This can only mean one thing: college football season has returned.

Here is a quick run-down of my picks for the conferences, the national championship matchup, and the Heisman Trophy winner.

ATLANTIC COAST: Virginia Tech. This is VT's conference until anyone decides to challenge them for it. North Carolina football is becoming something beyond a punchline, and teams like Maryland and Boston College are always dangerous as spoilers, but no one is going to dethrone the Hokies this season.

BIG 10: Penn State. First rule of college football: Never bet against a team coached by Joe Paterno. He is entering his 59th season of head

coaching, all with the Nitnany Lions, for a reason. The real stories of this conference, though, will be whether or not Northwestern can make it to a second straight Bowl game for the first time in 12 years, or how Michigan will rebound from the first 3-9 season in school history.

BIG 12: Oklahoma. A trouncing at the hands of hated rival Texas will be enough motivation for the Sooners to become king of the conference this year. It'll be a dogfight, as along with Texas there are teams like Kansas and Oklahoma State who should be competitive as well. Look for Baylor and Nebraska to be the surprises of the conference.

BIG EAST: Cincinnati. Many people are picking West Virginia, but I can't with the knowledge they lost their star quarterback and fullback from last year. On the other hand, the Bearcats just keep getting better each year, with QB Tony Pike being my dark horse pick for Heisman. Pittsburgh would have been a solid option, if their tailback hadn't bolted for the NFL in the off-season. Expect South Florida to play spoiler yet again this season as well.

CONFERENCE USA: East Carolina. This is such a weak conference that you can be only semi-competitive and still end up on top. However, ECU seems to be the team that can hang around better than anyone else in the conference. Despite tough scheduling (VA Tech, WVU, UNC), the Pirates should have no problem once they enter conference play. It'll be a cakewalk against teams like Tulane, Southern Miss and UTEP.

MID-AMERICAN: Ball State. Who said Cinderella stories can't have sequels? The little Indiana school-that-could shocked everybody last year by going from un-

ranked mid-majors to a perfect regular season record of 12-0. Central Michigan can also be a major force in the conference if they can improve their pass defense.

MOUNTAIN WEST: Texas Christian. These guys could easily end up playing in the National Championship when it's all said and done. They've got a cupcake schedule, with the only real obstacles coming in the form of a road game against Clemson and a rematch against Utah, where the Horned Frogs will look to avenge their only loss in 2008. If the teams ahead of them struggle, they could vie for a spot in the Big Game.

PACIFIC 10: Southern Cal. Come on, who else am I going to pick here? Pete Carroll's Trojans will protect their conference winning streak en route to winning their eighth in a row. Arizona State will attempt to challenge the Trojans, but in reality everyone else will just be battling for second place.

SOUTHEASTERN: Florida. Heisman quarterback? Check. Two national titles in 3 years? Yup. Number-one pre-season ranking? Got it. They're right on the cusp of becoming the next college dynasty, and Tim Tebow is exactly the QB to get them there. Despite a hellish conference schedule (road games against LSU, South Carolina and Mississippi State), expect to see them on top when the dust settles.

SUN BELT: Troy. They finished the season ranked 28th in the country on offense and they've got weapons on both sides of the ball. QB Levi Brown threw for 2,000 yards and RB DuJuan Harris is always a 1,000-yard threat. No one else can compete here.

WESTERN ATHLETIC: Boise State. Gone are the days of a competitive Hawaii-Boise State

rivalry. The Broncos should rumble to their seventh conference title in eight years, with Oregon being the only potential roadblock. Now if only they could change that turf...

NATIONAL TITLE GAME: Florida beats Penn State

HEISMAN TROPHY WINNER: Florida QB Tim Tebow



Courtesy of blog.al.com / The Associated Press

Senior QB Tim Tebow is looking to lead Florida to their third national championship in four years while also attempting to win his second Heisman trophy.



Courtesy of the post-gazette.com

Some called for Penn State Head Coach Joe Paterno to resign after a couple of down seasons. However, the calls have ceased now that Paterno has brought the Nitnany Lions back to one of the elite programs in college football

The college football season begins tonight with nine games.